

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6576

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: SENATE ELECTION PROSPECT IN BURSA

SUMMARY: JUSTICE PARTY EXPECTED TO TAKE THREE OF FOUR BURSA SENATE SEATS, WITH REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY TAKING FOURTH. JUSTICE PARTY ALSO LIKELY FILL PARLIAMENTARY SEAT VACATED BY DEATH OF RPP DEPUTY, THOUGH RPP IS MAKING SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO RETAIN IT. END SUMMARY.

1. BURSA, WITH FOUR SENATE AND ONE PARLIAMENTARY SEAT TO BE FILLED IN THE OCT 12 ELECTIONS, IS FOCUS OF STRONG CAMPAIGN EFFORTS BY JUSTICE (JP) AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S (RPP) PARTIES. TRADITIONALLY BURSA HAS BEEN STRONGHOLD OF OLD DEMOCRATIC (DP) AND SUCCESSOR PARTIES IN THE FP AND BOZBEYLI'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP). IN 19-3 GENERAL ELECTIONS, BURSA'S ELEVEN SEATS WERE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: JP - 6; RPP - 3; NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY 1 AND DP. OF FOUR SENATE SEATS, THREE HAVE BEEN HELD BY JP AND ONE BY RPP.

2. OFFICIALS OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES EXPECT THAT AT MINIMUM JP WILL RETAIN TWO SEATS -- ONE OF THEM HELD BY FOMIN IHSAN SABRI
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CAGLAYANGIL -- AND THAT RPP WILL KEEP ITS ONE. WHILE ODDS FAVOR

THE JP'S ALSO WINNING REMAINING SEAT THERE IS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY THAT RPP COULD SCORE SURPRISE BY URGING ELECTORATE TO VOTE BY PREFERENCE RATHER THAN ACCORDING PARTY CANDIDATE LIST. SEBIB KARAMULLAOGLU, CANDIDATE HEADING RPP LIST, IS LESS POPULAR THAN NUMBER TWO FIGURE ADNAN YUZEL, WHO IS FAVORITE OF WORKERS. FURTHERMORE INCUMBENT SEN SAFFET URAL HAS BEEN MOVED TO NUMBER FOUR SLOT, AND MAY LOBBY AGAINST KARAMULLAOGLU. THUS, IF RPP CAN ENSURE HEAVY WORKER VOTER PARTICIPATION, PARTY MIGHT CONCEIVABLY WIN EXTRA SEAT. ODDS, HOWEVER, ARE IN JP'S FAVOR, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT CELAL BAYAR HAS DECLARED JP "TRUE SUCCESSOR" OF OLD DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

3. JP IS ALSO FAVORED TO WIN THE PARLIAMENTARY SEAT VACATED BY THE DEATH OF RPP DEPUTY SADRETTIN CANGA. JP IS RUNNING RETIRED GEN ALI ELVERDI, MARTIAL LAW JUDGE WHO HANGED DENIZ GEZMIS IN 1972. WHILE ELVERDI'S CANDIDACY IS EVEN MORE ODIUS TO LEFT THAN GEN TURUN'S IS IN ISTANBUL, ELVERDI IS FIGURE ADMIRER IN CONSERVATIVE PROVINCE. RPP'S CANDIDATE, ILYAS DALVIC, MEMBER OF BURSA CITY COUNCIL, IS POPULAR AMONG ELECTORATE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, BUT DOES NOT HAVE ELVERDI'S POLITICAL STATURE. RPP, HOWEVER, IS MAKING STRONG BID FOR SEAT. TO SHOW PARTY'S INTEREST, BURSA DEPUTY AND FORMER MINDEF HASAN ESAT ISIK HAS BEEN ON HAND TO CAMPAIGN FOR CANDIDATES, WHILE RPP LEADER ECEVIT WILL SPEAK ON OCT 4. PARTY OFFICIALS BELIEVE CAMPAIGN IS WORTH VIGOROUS EFFORT SINCE GAINS WOULD HAVE SPECIAL SYMBOLIC VALUE GIVEN BURSA'S TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE POLITICS.

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